

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 847**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Pavley  
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Kehoe and Laird)**

February 20, 2003

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An act to amend Section 31220 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 31220) of Division 21 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to natural resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 847, as introduced, Pavley. Natural resources: State Coastal Conservancy.

Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to undertake watershed restoration projects, or award grants for those projects, in order to improve coastal water quality. Existing law requires those projects to do one or more things, two of which are to provide for the purchase and installation of equipment to monitor and map coastal currents to predict and determine areas of contamination and pollutant transport in coastal waters, or to acquire, protect, and restore coastal wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and other sensitive watershed lands for coastal rivers.

This bill, instead, would authorize the conservancy to undertake watershed and coastal water quality projects, or award grants for those projects, to improve coastal water quality and protect marine resources in sensitive habitat areas. The bill would alter the above two project requirements, to require the projects to, among other things, provide for the purchase and installation of equipment to monitor and map coastal currents and habitats, to facilitate management of marine resources, or

to acquire, protect, and restore coastal wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and other sensitive watershed lands or marine areas.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 31220) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 5.5. ~~WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS~~ *INTEGRATED COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES PROTECTION*

SEC. 2. Section 31220 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

31220. (a) In order to improve coastal water quality *and protect marine resources in sensitive habitat areas*, the conservancy may undertake watershed *and coastal water quality* restoration projects or award grants for those projects, consistent with this chapter. The conservancy shall consult with the applicable regional water quality control board in the development of the project or grant to ensure consistency with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30915) of Division 20.4 of the Public Resources Code.

(b) The conservancy may undertake a project or award a grant to a project only if the project does one or more of the following:

(1) Reduces contamination of waters within the coastal zone, including, but not limited to, coastal and near shore waters.

(2) Protects fish and wildlife habitat within coastal watersheds and coastal waters.

(3) Reduces erosion and sedimentation of coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, permit coordination projects for watershed restoration.

(4) Provides for the purchase and installation of equipment to monitor and map coastal currents ~~to predict and determine areas of contamination and pollutant transport in coastal waters and habitats, to facilitate management of marine resources~~. Any project considered under this paragraph shall be implemented in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.

1 (5) Acquires, protects, and restores coastal wetlands, riparian  
2 areas, floodplains, and other sensitive watershed lands for ~~coastal~~  
3 ~~rivers~~ *or marine areas* .

4 (c) The conservancy shall consult with the State Water  
5 Resources Control Board on project selection. Projects funded  
6 pursuant to this section shall be consistent with local watershed  
7 management plans, if available, and water quality control plans  
8 adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board and regional  
9 water quality control boards, and shall include a monitoring and  
10 evaluation component.

